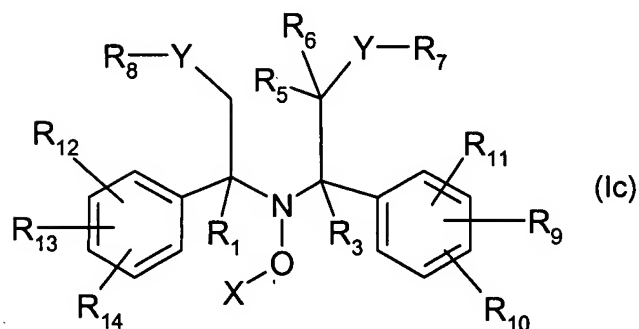
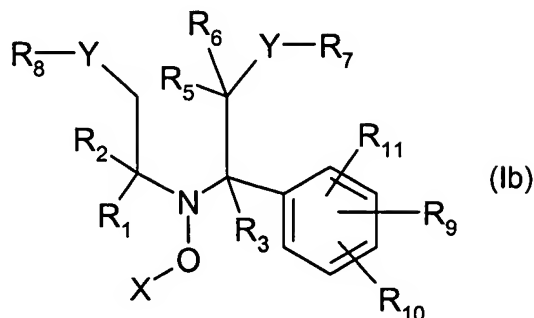
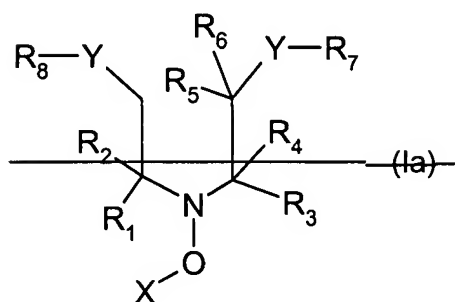


In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula [(Ia,)] Ib[[],] or Ic



wherein

Y is O or NR₁₀₁ and R₁₀₁ is H or C₁-C₁₈alkyl or R₇ and/or R₈ and R₁₀₁ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound form a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring;

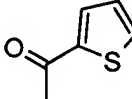
R₁, R₂ and R₃ independently are benzyl, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₂-C₁₈alkenyl which are unsubstituted or substituted by OH or by a group -O-C(O)-R₁₀₂; or C₂-C₁₈alkyl which is interrupted by at least one O atom or a group NR₁₀₂ wherein R₁₀₂ is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl or C₆-C₁₀aryl;
or R₁ and R₂ together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl group; or
in formula Ia R₃ and R₄ together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl group;

~~R₄ is C₂-C₁₂alkyl~~ [[:]]

R₅ and R₆ are independently H, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₂-C₁₈alkenyl, benzyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl or phenyl;

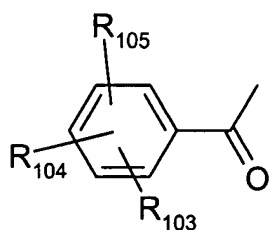
R₇ and R₈ independently are H, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₂-C₁₈alkenyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl or a group

-C(O)-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-O-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-O-phenyl, -C(O)-C(O)-OH,

-C(O)-C(O)-NH-(C₁-C₁₈alkyl), -C(S)-S-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl,  or -SiR_aR_bR_c wherein R_a, R_b and R_c

independently are C₁-C₁₈alkyl,

or R₇ and R₈ are a group



wherein R₁₀₃, R₁₀₄ and R₁₀₅ independently are H, C₁-C₈alkyl, C₁-C₈alkoxy,

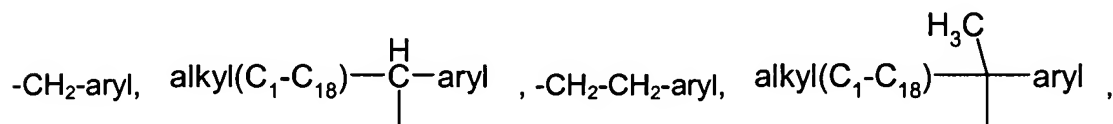
C₁-C₈alkylthio, -O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, -O-C(O)-(C₆-C₁₀)aryl, nitro, cyano or halogen;

R₉, R₁₀, R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃ and R₁₄ independently are H, OH, C₁-C₈alkoxy, C₁-C₈alkyl, SH, C₁-C₈alkylthio,

-O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, -O-C(O)-(C₆-C₁₀)aryl, nitro, cyano, halogen or a group NR₁₀₆R₁₀₇ wherein R₁₀₆ and R₁₀₇ independently are hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl or C₆-C₁₀aryl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound form a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring;

and

X is selected from the group consisting of

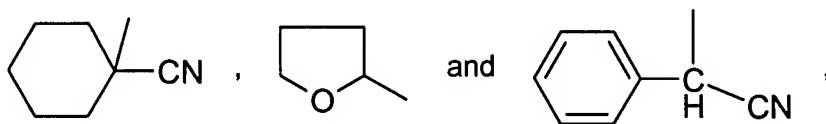
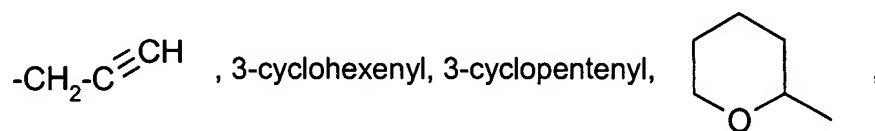


(C₅-C₆cycloalkyl)₂CCN, (C₁-C₁₂alkyl)₂CCN, -CH₂CH=CH₂, (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl,

(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-(C₆-C₁₀)aryl, (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-O-R₂₁, (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-phenoxy,

(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-N-di(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl, (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-CO-NH(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl,

(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-CO-NH₂, -CH₂CH=CH-CH₃, -CH₂-C(CH₃)=CH₂, -CH₂-CH=CH-phenyl,



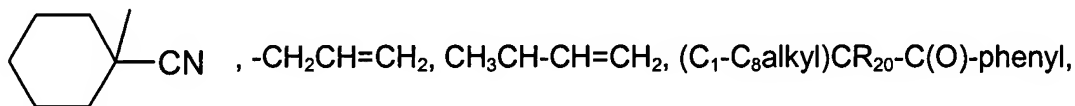
wherein

R₂₀ is hydrogen or C₁-C₁₂alkyl;

R₂₁ is C₁-C₁₈alkyl or C₂-C₁₈alkyl which is interrupted by at least one O atom or a group NR₁₀₂ wherein R₁₀₂ is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl or C₆-C₁₀aryl;

the alkyl groups are unsubstituted or substituted with one or more -OH, -COOH, -O(C₁-C₈alkyl), NR₁₀₆R₁₀₇ or -COR₂₀ groups wherein R₂₀, R₁₀₆ and R₁₀₇ have the meanings as defined above; and the aryl groups are phenyl or naphthyl which are unsubstituted or substituted with C₁-C₁₂alkyl, halogen, C₁-C₁₂alkoxy, C₁-C₁₂alkylthio, C₁-C₁₂alkylcarbonyl, glycidyloxy, OH, SH, -COOH or -COO(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein X is selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-phenyl, CH₃CH-phenyl, (CH₃)₂C-phenyl, (C₅-C₆cycloalkyl)₂CCN, (CH₃)₂CCN,

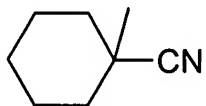


(C₁-C₈)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkoxy, (C₁-C₈)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl,
(C₁-C₈)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-N-di(C₁-C₈)alkyl, (C₁-C₈)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-NH(C₁-C₈)alkyl and
(C₁-C₈)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-NH₂,

wherein

R₂₀ is hydrogen or (C₁-C₈)alkyl.

3. (original) A compound according to claim 2 wherein X is selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-phenyl, CH₃CH-phenyl, (CH₃)₂C-phenyl, (C₅-C₆cycloalkyl)₂CCN, (CH₃)₂CCN,



, -CH₂CH=CH₂, CH₃CH-CH=CH₂, (C₁-C₄alkyl)CR₂₀-C(O)-phenyl,

(C₁-C₄)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-(C₁-C₄)alkoxy, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-(C₁-C₄)alkyl,
(C₁-C₄)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-N-di(C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-NH(C₁-C₄)alkyl and
(C₁-C₄)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-NH₂,

wherein

R₂₀ is hydrogen or (C₁-C₄)alkyl.

4. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Y is O and ~~wherein in formula Ia, R₄ is C₂-C₆alkyl or R₃ and R₄ together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a 5 to 7 membered cycloalkyl ring.~~

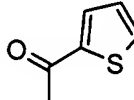
5. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein

R₁, R₂ and R₃ are C₁-C₅alkyl; ~~or in formula Ia, R₃ and R₄ together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a C₅-C₆cycloalkyl group;~~

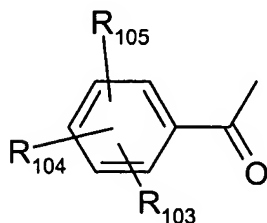
~~R₄ is C₂-C₆alkyl~~[[:]]

R₅ and R₆ are H;

R₇ and R₈ independently are H, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, allyl, benzyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl or a group

-C(O)-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-O-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-C(O)-OH, -C(S)-S-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, 

or -SiR_aR_bR_c wherein R_a, R_b and R_c independently are C₁-C₁₈alkyl, or R₇ and R₈ are a group



wherein R₁₀₃, R₁₀₄ and R₁₀₅ independently are H,

C₁-C₈alkoxy, C₁-C₈alkylthio, -O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, nitro, cyano, halogen or C₁-C₈alkyl;

R₉, R₁₀ and R₁₁ independently are H, C₁-C₈alkoxy, C₁-C₈alkylthio, -O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, nitro, cyano, halogen or C₁-C₈alkyl; and

X is as defined in claim 1.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) A compound of formula Ib according to claim 1 wherein

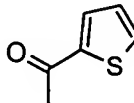
Y is O;

R₁ and R₂ are C₁-C₅alkyl, or together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a C₅-C₇cycloalkyl group;

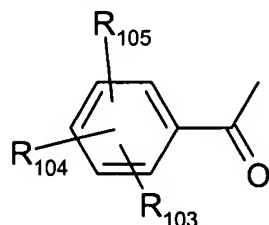
R₃ is methyl, ethyl or propyl;

R₅ and R₆ are H;

R₇ and R₈ independently are H, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, allyl, benzyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl or a group

-C(O)-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-O-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-C(O)-OH, -C(S)-S-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, 

or -SiR_aR_bR_c wherein R_a, R_b and R_c independently are C₁-C₁₈alkyl, or R₇ and R₈ are a group



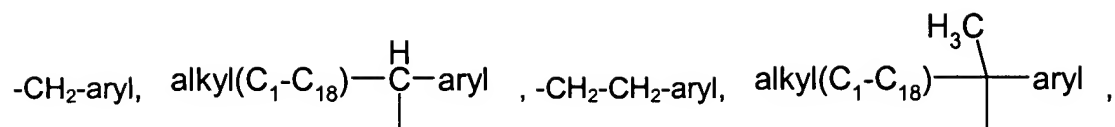
wherein R₁₀₃, R₁₀₄ and R₁₀₅ independently are H, C₁-C₈alkoxy,

C₁-C₈alkylthio, -O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, nitro, cyano, halogen or C₁-C₈alkyl;

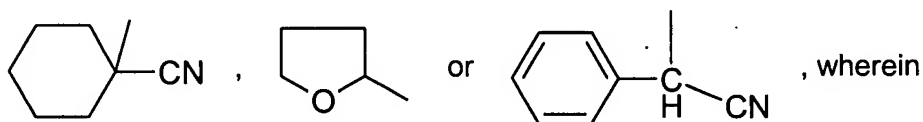
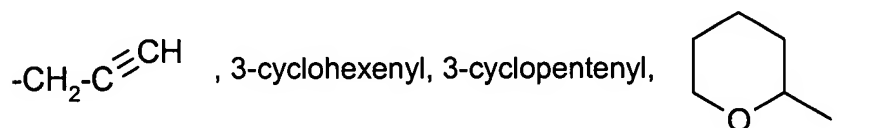
R₉, R₁₀ and R₁₁ independently are H, C₁-C₈alkoxy, C₁-C₈alkylthio, -O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, nitro, cyano, halogen or C₁-C₈alkyl;

and

X is selected from the group consisting of



(C₅-C₆cycloalkyl)₂CCN, (C₁-C₁₂alkyl)₂CCN, -CH₂CH=CH₂, (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl,
 (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-(C₆-C₁₀)aryl, (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-O-R₂₁, (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-phenoxy,
 (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-C(O)-N-di(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl, (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-CO-NH(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl,
 (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₂₀-CO-NH₂, -CH₂CH=CH-CH₃, -CH₂-C(CH₃)=CH₂, -CH₂-CH=CH-phenyl,



R₂₀ is hydrogen or C₁-C₁₂alkyl;

R₂₁ is C₁-C₁₈alkyl or C₂-C₁₈alkyl which is interrupted by at least one O atom or a group NR₁₀₂ wherein

R₁₀₂ is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl or C₆-C₁₀aryl;

the alkyl groups are unsubstituted or substituted with one or more -OH, -COOH, -O(C₁-C₈alkyl),

NR₁₀₆R₁₀₇ or -COR₂₀ groups wherein R₂₀, R₁₀₆ and R₁₀₇ have the meanings as defined above; and

the aryl groups are phenyl or naphthyl which are unsubstituted or substituted with C₁-C₁₂alkyl, halogen, C₁-C₁₂alkoxy, C₁-C₁₂alkylcarbonyl, glycidyloxy, OH, -COOH or -COO(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl.

8. (currently amended) A polymerizable composition, comprising

- a) at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer or oligomer, and
- b) a compound according to formula (Ia)-(Ib) or (Ic) according to claim 1.

9. (currently amended) A process for preparing an oligomer, a cooligomer, a polymer or a copolymer (block or random) by free radical polymerization of at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer or oligomer, which comprises (co)polymerizing the monomer or monomers/oligomers in the presence of an initiator compound of formula (Ia) [(Ib)] (Ib) or (Ic) according to claim 1 under reaction

conditions capable of effecting scission of the O-X bond to form two free radicals, the radical $\bullet X$ being capable of initiating polymerization.

10. (previously presented) A process according to claim 9 wherein the scission of the O-X bond is effected by ultrasonic treatment, heating or exposure to electromagnetic radiation ranging from γ to microwaves.

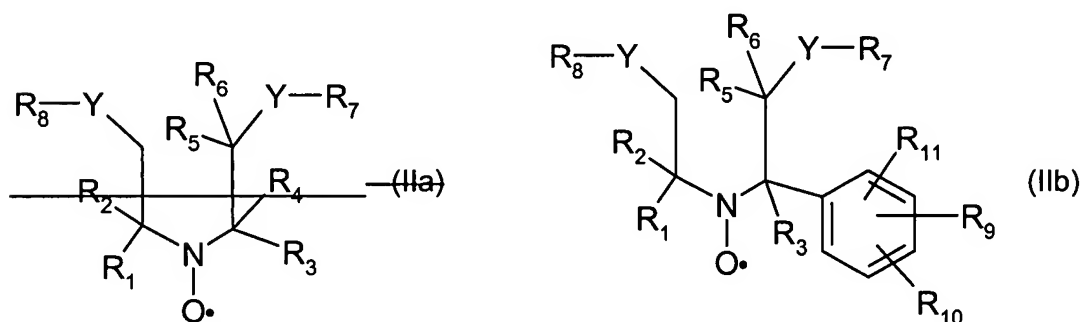
11. (original) A process according to claim 10 wherein the scission of the O-X bond is effected by heating and takes place at a temperature of between 50°C and 160°C.

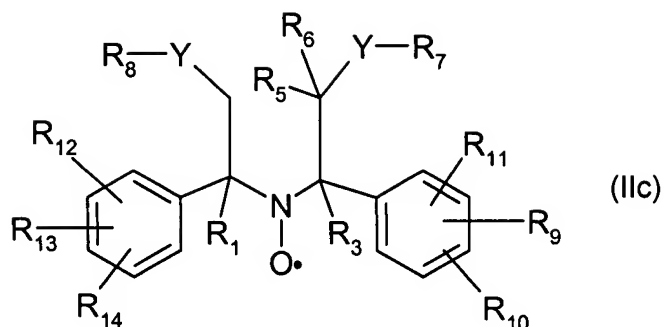
12. (original) A process according to claim 9 wherein the compound is present in an amount from 0.001 mol-% to 20 mol-%, based on the monomer or monomer mixture.

13. (currently amended) A polymerizable composition, comprising

a) at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer or oligomer, and

b) a compound according to formula (IIa)-(IIb) or (IIc)





wherein

Y is O or NR₁₀₁ and R₁₀₁ is H or C₁-C₁₈alkyl or R₇ and/or R₈ and R₁₀₁ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound form a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring;

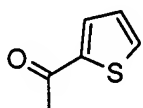
R₁, R₂ and R₃ independently are benzyl, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₂-C₁₈alkenyl which are unsubstituted or substituted by OH or a by group -O-C(O)-R₁₀₂; or C₂-C₁₈alkyl which is interrupted by at least one O atom or a group NR₁₀₂ wherein R₁₀₂ is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl or C₆-C₁₀aryl;

or R₁ and R₂ together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl group; or in formula Ia R₃ and R₄ together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl group;

~~R₄ is C₂-C₁₂alkyl~~[[:]]

R₅ and R₆ are independently H, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₂-C₁₈alkenyl, benzyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl or phenyl;

R₇ and R₈ independently are H, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₂-C₁₈alkenyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl or a group -C(O)-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-O-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-O-phenyl, -C(O)-C(O)-OH,

-C(O)-C(O)-NH-(C₁-C₁₈alkyl), -C(S)-S-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl,  or -SiR_aR_bR_c wherein R_a, R_b and R_c

independently are C₁-C₁₈alkyl, or R₇ and R₈ are a group



R₉, R₁₀, R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃ and R₁₄ independently are H, OH, C₁-C₈alkoxy, C₁-C₈alkyl, SH, C₁-C₈alkylthio, -O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, -O-C(O)-(C₆-C₁₀)aryl, nitro, cyano, halogen or a group NR₁₀₆R₁₀₇ wherein R₁₀₆ and R₁₀₇ independently are hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl or C₆-C₁₀aryl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound form a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring;

c) a source of free radicals capable of initiating polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated monomers.

14. (original) A process for preparing an oligomer, a cooligomer, a polymer or a copolymer (block or random) by free radical polymerization of at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer/oligomer, which comprises subjecting the composition according to claim **13** to heat or actinic radiation.

15. (previously presented) A compound of formula IIb



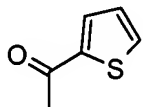
wherein

Y is O or NR₁₀₁ and R₁₀₁ is H or C₁-C₁₈alkyl or R₇ and R₁₀₁ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound form a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring;

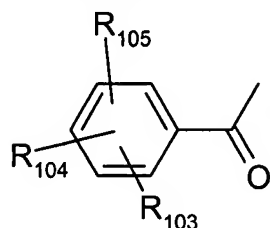
R₁, R₂ and R₃ independently are benzyl, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₂-C₁₈alkenyl which are unsubstituted or substituted by OH or a group -O-C(O)-R₁₀₂; or C₂-C₁₈alkyl which is interrupted by at least one O atom or a group NR₁₀₂ wherein R₁₀₂ is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl or C₆-C₁₀aryl;
or R₁ and R₂ together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl group;

R₅ and R₆ are independently H, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₂-C₁₈alkenyl, benzyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl or phenyl;

R₇ and R₈ independently are H, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₂-C₁₈alkenyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl or a group
-C(O)-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-O-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-O-phenyl, -C(O)-C(O)-OH,

-C(O)-C(O)-NH-(C₁-C₁₈alkyl), -C(S)-S-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl,  or -SiR_aR_bR_c wherein R_a, R_b and R_c

independently are C₁-C₁₈alkyl, or R₇ and R₈ are a group



wherein R₁₀₃, R₁₀₄ and R₁₀₅ independently are H, C₁-C₈alkyl, C₁-C₈alkoxy,

C₁-C₈alkylthio, -O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, -O-C(O)-(C₆-C₁₀)aryl, nitro, cyano or halogen; and

R₉, R₁₀ and R₁₁ independently are H, OH, C₁-C₈alkoxy, C₁-C₈alkyl, SH, C₁-C₈alkylthio,
-O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, -O-C(O)-(C₆-C₁₀)aryl, nitro, cyano, halogen or a group NR₁₀₆R₁₀₇ wherein R₁₀₆
and R₁₀₇ independently are hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl or C₆-C₁₀aryl or together with the nitrogen atom to
which they are bound form a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring.

16. (previously presented) A compound of formula IIb according to claim 15 wherein

Y is O;

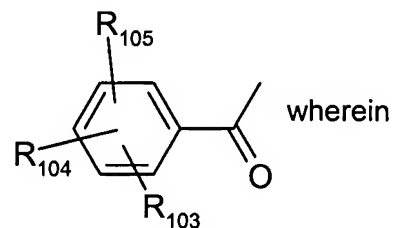
R₁ and R₂ are -CH₃, or together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a C₅-C₇cycloalkyl
group;

R₃ is methyl, ethyl or propyl;

R₅ and R₆ are H;

R₇ and R₈ independently are H, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, allyl, benzyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl or a group
-C(O)-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-O-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl, -C(O)-C(O)-OH, -C(S)-S-(C₁-C₁₈)alkyl or -SiR_aR_bR_c wherein

R_a R_b and R_c independently are C₁-C₁₈alkyl, or R₇ and R₈ are a group



R₁₀₃, R₁₀₄ and R₁₀₅ independently are H, C₁-C₈alkoxy,

C₁-C₈alkylthio, -O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, nitro, cyano, halogen or C₁-C₈alkyl; and

R₉, R₁₀ and R₁₁ independently are H, C₁-C₈alkoxy, C₁-C₈alkylthio, -O-C(O)-(C₁-C₈)alkyl, nitro, cyano, halogen or C₁-C₈alkyl.

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)